

Gender Matters

October 2007

Single-Gender Initiatives
Office of Public School Choice
South Carolina Department of Education

Welcome to Fall!

The first quarter is coming to a close. I hope that you will consider polling your students about their single-gender experience. You can learn a great deal from their feedback.



South Carolina
Department of Education

Together, we can.

Our first state training on September 27 was a huge success. Over 120 participants from around the state attended. There was ample time for collaboration. Please see the list of professional development dates, I have added many for the rest of the school year.

Many people have been asking for data. On page 2 you will find some data from three different schools. Please continue to send your data to me so that I can share with others. We need to continue to support each other.

Please note the South Carolina Department of Education Single-Gender Initiatives web address for your use:
<http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/divisions/dcs/Singlegender.html>

Enjoy,
David

Call for Presentations

2nd Annual Teacher-to-Teacher Conference; March 8, 2008

*Do you have strategies that work well for boys or girls?
Do you have lessons that were very successful for your girls or boys?
Do you want to become a leader in single-gender education?
Do you want to collaborate with others on single-gender education?*

If yes, then send in a proposal to present at the Teacher-to-Teacher Conference. [Information is posted on the SCDE website.](#)

Get Paid for Your Lesson Plans

Do you have a great lesson plan or strategy that works well for boys and/or girls? I want to share your ideas with others! And I want to pay you for your collaborative effort. You all are making single-gender successful and you need to share your ideas. Complete the Single-Gender Lesson Template and email it to me for consideration. **Teachers of accepted lessons will receive \$10 per lesson up to \$100.** I will email you necessary paperwork upon acceptance in order for you to be paid.

Let's all help each other keep single-gender lessons strong in South Carolina. Check the SCDE Single-Gender web page!

Books to Use



Odd Girl Out by Rachel Simmons
A powerful examination for girl aggression. You will have a much better understanding of what is happening in your classroom and what to do about it.



Misreading Masculinity by Thomas Newkirk
A strong argument of approaching literacy of boys in a different way. Mr. Newkirk provides specific examples.

PLEASE SEND ME TITLES OF BOOKS THAT YOU USE AND WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL FOR TEACHERS OF SINGLE-GENDER CLASSROOMS.

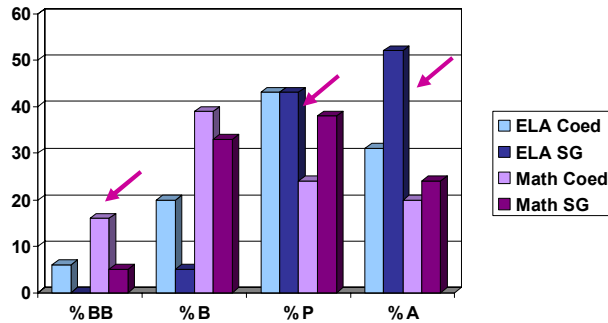
A list of previously highlighted books is at the back of every newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform educators about single-gender updates in the state, provide best-practice advice, spur collaboration, and announce professional development opportunities. I welcome your information and comments.

David Chadwell
Single-Gender Initiatives
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Email: dchadwel@ed.sc.gov

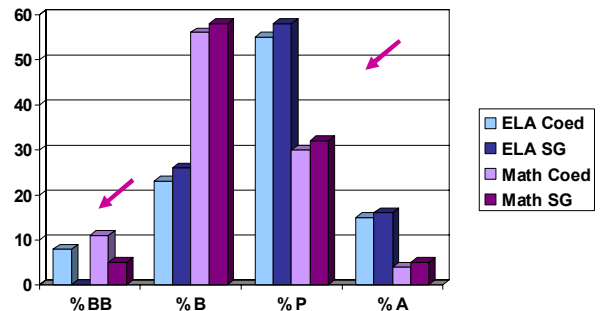
Exciting Data from Schools

3rd Grade Females, 2007 PACT
Beech Hill Elementary, Dorchester 2



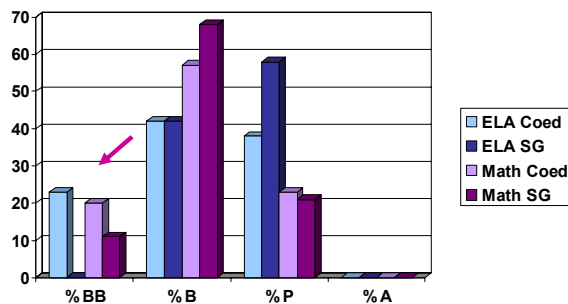
Compared to girls in coed classes, girls in single-gender classes had a lower percentage of students scoring Below Basic. For ELA, the girls in single-gender had a much greater percentage of students scoring Advanced and for Math a greater percentage of students scored Proficient and Advanced.

3rd Grade Males, 2007 PACT
Beech Hill Elementary, Dorchester 2



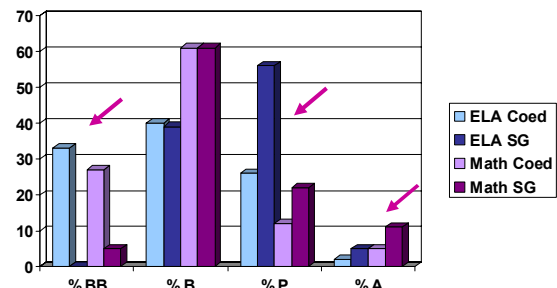
Compared to boys in coed classes, single-gender boys out performed coed boys in all areas of ELA and Math, including a lower percentage of students scoring Below Basic.

5th Grade Females, 2007 PACT
Beech Hill Elementary, Dorchester 2



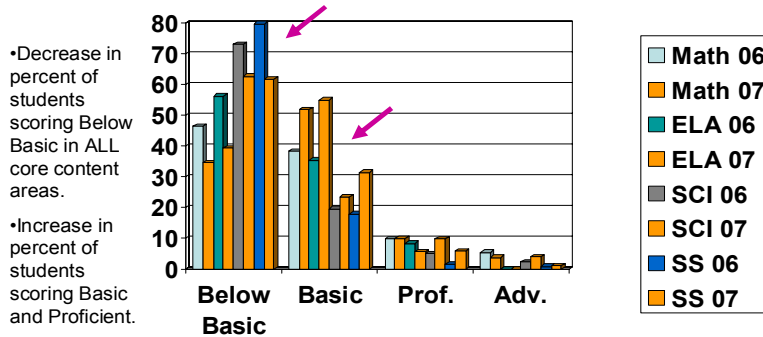
Compared to girls in coed classes, girls in single-gender classes had a higher percentage scoring Proficient in ELA and Basic in Mathematics (and almost similar Proficient) with corresponding low percentages in ELA and Math for

5th Grade Males, 2007 PACT
Beech Hill Elementary, Dorchester 2



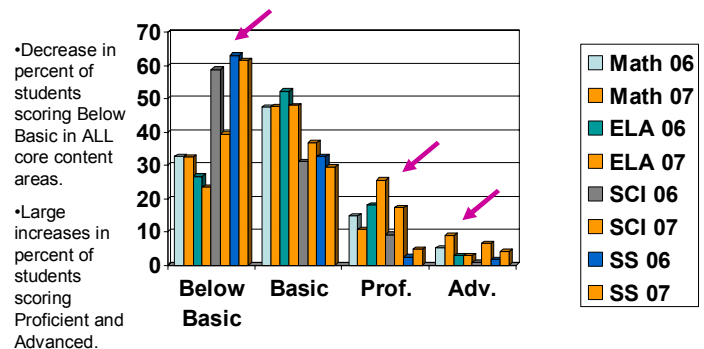
Compared to boys in coed classes, double the percentage of boys in single-gender scored Proficient and Advanced on ELA and Math, with corresponding low percentage of boys in single-gender classes scoring below basic.

7th Grade Males, Percent of Students Scoring by PACT Level
Kingstree Junior High - Williamsburg



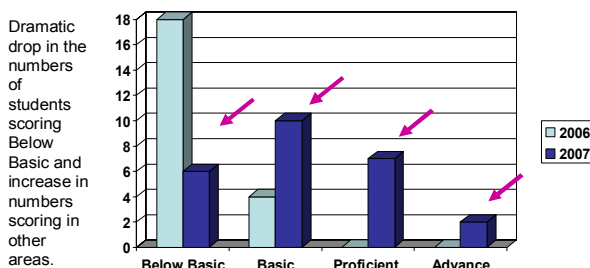
•Decrease in percent of students scoring Below Basic in ALL core content areas.
•Increase in percent of students scoring Basic and Proficient.

7th Grade Females, Percent of Students Scoring by PACT Level
Kingstree Junior High - Williamsburg



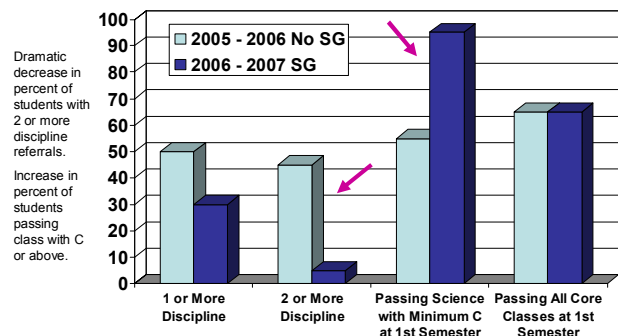
•Decrease in percent of students scoring Below Basic in ALL core content areas.
•Large increases in percent of students scoring Proficient and Advanced.

All Male 7th Grade Science Class
W.G. Sanders - Richland 1



Dramatic drop in the numbers of students scoring Below Basic and increase in numbers scoring in other areas.

All Male 7th Grade Science Class
W.G. Sanders - Richland 1



Dramatic decrease in percent of students with 2 or more discipline referrals.
Increase in percent of students passing class with C or above.

By the Numbers ... As of September 30, 2007

There are 52 districts implementing or pursuing single-gender programs in their schools

There are 75 confirmed schools with single-gender programs

The number of specific schools doing, pursuing, or interested in single-gender programs:

36 Primary and Elementary Schools

71 Middle and Junior High Schools

4 High Schools

Current South Carolina Schools with Single-Gender Programs (in order by District)

A.L. Corbett Middle 6-8	Aiken	Carvers Bay High	Georgetown
North Augusta Elem School	Aiken	Langston Charter	Greenville
Riverside Middle	Anderson 4	Northwest Middle	Greenville
Hilton Head IB Elementary	Beaufort	Brewer Middle	Greenwood 50
Okatie Elementary	Beaufort	Estill Elementary K-5	Hampton 2
Port Royal Elementary	Beaufort	Estill Middle 6-8	Hampton 2
Robert Smalls Middle	Beaufort	Hardeeville Junior High	Jasper
St. Helena Early Learning Center	Beaufort	Ridgeland Junior High	Jasper
Whale Branch Middle School	Beaufort	Gray Court-Owings Middle	Laurens 55
Macedonia Middle	Berkeley	Laurens Middle	Laurens 55
Calhoun High School	Calhoun	Bell Street Middle	Laurens 56
Guinyard Elem School	Calhoun	Mount Pleasant Middle	Lee
Charleston Progressive	Charleston	West Lee Elementary	Lee
Charlestowne Academy	Charleston	Wil Lou Gray Challenge Academy	Lexington 2
Moultrie Middle	Charleston	Sandhills Middle	Lexington 4
St. Andrews Middle	Charleston	Crossroads Middle	Lexington 5
West Ashley Middle	Charleston	Mid-Carolina Middle	Newberry
John E. Ewing Middle	Cherokee	Seneca Middle School	Oconee
Mary Bramlett Elementary	Cherokee	Hand Middle	Richland 1
Chesterfield Ruby Middle	Chesterfield	South Kilbourne Elementary	Richland 1
Long Middle School	Chesterfield	Southeast Middle	Richland 1
Scott's Branch Intermediate	Clarendon 1	W.G. Sanders Middle	Richland 1
Manning Primary 2-3	Clarendon 2	Blythewood Middle	Richland 2
East Clarendon Middle	Clarendon 3	Dent Middle	Richland 2
Black Street Elementary	Colleton	E.L. Wright Middle	Richland 2
Forest Hills Elementary	Colleton	Keels Elementary	Richland 2
Hendersonville Elementary	Colleton	Kelly Mill Middle	Richland 2
Northside Elementary	Colleton	Killian Elementary	Richland 2
Ruffin Middle	Colleton	Rice Creek Elementary	Richland 2
Latta Middle	Dillon 3	Sandlapper Elementary	Richland 2
Birchwood High DJJ Boys	DJJ	Summit Parkway Middle	Richland 2
Willow Lane DJJ Girls	DJJ	Cleveland Elementary	Spartanburg 7
Beech Hill Elementary	Dorchester 2	Park Hills Elementary	Spartanburg 7
Oakbrook Middle	Dorchester 2	Bates Middle	Sumter 17
Geiger Elementary	Fairfield	Rafting Creek Elementary	Sumter 2
Southside Middle	Florence 1	Hemingway High	Williamsburg
Ronald E. McNair Middle	Florence 3	Kingstree Junior High	Williamsburg
		Fort Mill Middle	York 4

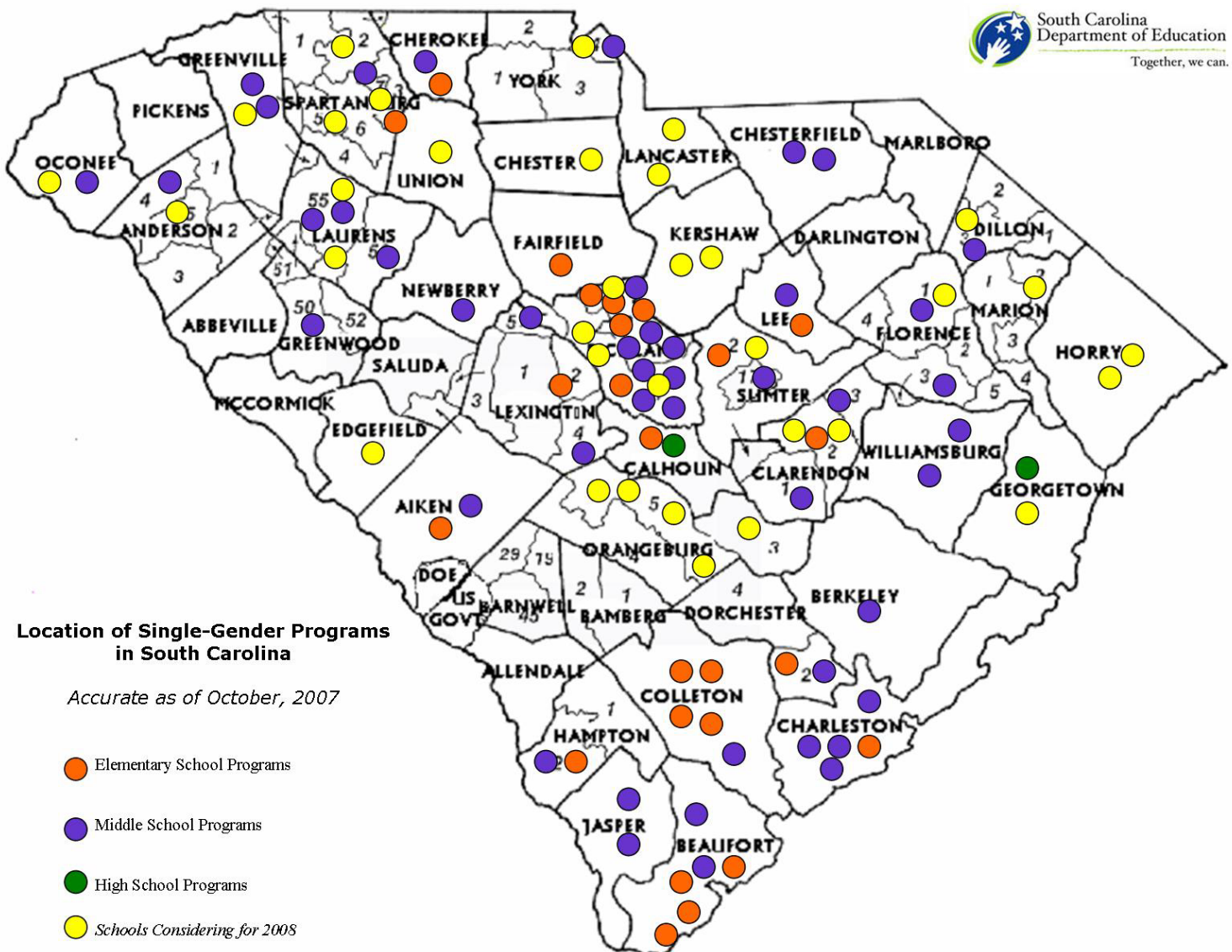
Congratulations South Carolina!

On October 1, 2007 the Associated Press ran an article about South Carolina's single-gender efforts. The article ran in over 100 newspapers across the country under the following headlines: **S.C. Leads in Single-Gender Classes** and **S.C. Pioneers in Single-Gender Classes**.

You can access this article here (click CTRL and click): <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jppUbBpESJRKRZxFon2dJftREb9gD8RVV1B00>

South Carolina has also been recognized by the National Association for Single-Sex Public Education as the leaders in single-gender education. From its [website](#):

Without question, **South Carolina leads the nation** when it comes to offering parents the choice of single-sex education within public schools. That fact was highlighted in the spring of 2007 when State Superintendent Jim Rex named David Chadwell, a member of the [NASSPE Advisory Board](#), to the newly-created post of [Director of Single-Gender Initiatives](#) statewide. Mr. Chadwell becomes the first person appointed to any statewide office anywhere in the United States with the primary mission of promoting single-sex education in public schools.



Notes from NASSPE Third Annual Conference

At least 12 educators from South Carolina traveled to Chicago this past week end to attend the National Association for Single-Sex Public Education Annual Conference. There were over 400 participants from all over the United States and the world. Contacts were made with educators from Spain, Poland, Japan, and Iceland to name a few.

Recognition is due to the following people for presenting at the conference:
[Middle School Mathematics and the Single-Gender Classroom](#)

Dr. Elaine Wiegert, Clemson University
Sandy Lorick, Langston Charter Middle School

[Real Men Read: Engaging Middle School Boys in Reading and Language Arts](#)
Caitlin Zimmerman, Dent Middle School

[Snips and Snails and Puppy Dog Tails: Engaging 2nd-grade Boys as Beech Hill](#)
Babette Hamilton-Jennings, Beech Hill Elementary School
Ruth Owens, Beech Hill Elementary School

[But It's So OLD!: Strategies to Make the Ancient Seem New for Middle School Girls](#)
Frances McCartha, Dent Middle School

[A Girl-Centered Science Curriculum](#)
Marriah Schwallier, Dent Middle School

[Helping Middle School Kids FOCUS](#)
Nancy Ankney, Dent Middle School
Kyle Meetze, Dent Middle School

[Some Interesting Pieces of Information from Sessions \(summarize in my words\)](#)
Girls tend to not try something unless they know that they can hit the "bull's eye" and boys tend to shoot as many arrows as possible at the target.—[Dr. Sax](#)

When boys disrespect the teacher in class, it is possible that he is raising his status in the eyes of the other boys.—[Dr. Sax](#)

Since boys frequently say that recess is their favorite "subject" in elementary school, how can I bring "recess" into my classroom.—[Ruth Owens as she reflected on making her room more boy-friendly](#)

The regions of the brain are not isolated functioning parts, rather they are more like letters of the alphabet and many regions are involved in many different tasks, some being utilized much more than others (i.e. the making of words using alphabet.—[Dr. Jay Giedd leading neuroscientist in the United States](#)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES
OFFERED BY SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE, SINGLE-GENDER INITIATIVES
All Registration Information will be available on the SCDE Webpage**

November 15, 2007

2:00 PM—5:00 PM

South Carolina Archives and History Center, Columbia

Teaching the Male Brain

Dr. Abigail James

January 24, 2008

9:30 AM—1:00 PM

Heyward Career and Technology Center, Columbia

Creating A Single-Gender Program; A Hands-On Workshop

David Chadwell

January 31, 2008

9:30 AM—1:00 PM

Heyward Career and Technology Center, Columbia

Gender Differences and Strategies for Your Classroom

David Chadwell

February 12, 2008

1:00 PM—5:00 PM

Columbia College, Columbia

Building a Community of Learning for Girls: Addressing the Needs of Girls

Dr. JoAnn Deak

March 8, 2008

8:30 AM—4:30 PM

Dent Middle School, Columbia

2nd Annual Teacher-to-Teacher Conference

April 22, 2008

9:30 AM—1:00 PM

Heyward Career and Technology Center, Columbia

Gender Differences and Strategies for Your Classroom

David Chadwell

Current Services Available from Single-Gender Initiatives

- Brainstorming and planning session with administration, SIC, leadership team, district office representatives
- Information session on reasons for considering a single-gender program and recommended steps to take
- Teacher training for teaching within single-gender classrooms looking at research-based gender differences, related teacher strategies, lesson plan formats, and structural options
- Information session for staff members on gender differences and application within a coeducational classroom
- Parent session on reasons for doing a single-gender program, gender differences, and answering questions about single-gender programs
- Classroom observations and providing teacher feedback

From the Classroom

This is a chance for you to articulate the great things you do in the classroom and communicate with other teachers. Send me a description of a strategy, something that happened in your class, anything about single-gender education. Your input will help many teachers. The quotes below are from teachers who came to the September 27 training. They were asked about their experiences so far and surprises. Enjoy!

Not having to worry about girl-boy issue while teaching. Some students are more willing to participate if there isn't other genders to worry about.

I was surprised as how well it is actually working. I thought it would be much more challenging
[Angie, Macedonia Middle](#)

Students get along very well and are more open to classroom instruction
[Michelle, Riverside Middle](#)

Being able to discuss history through gender related perspectives (i.e. boys obsession with war.) The questions and discussions have seen more class involvement without the worry of not being "cool."
[Jeff, Carvers Bay High](#)

The ability to discipline in different ways. So much easier!

The girls actually do stay on task and pace themselves – never noticed before that it was a gender thing.
[Rachel, Oakbrook Middle](#)

I'm surprised at the deep thinking that is going on and verbalized [with the boys] not that the girls aren't there to jump in and take over the thinking.
[Kathy, Hendersonville Elementary](#)

So far zero discipline problems. We are able to move deeper into the lesson and have time for enrichment.
[Pat, Joseph Keels Elementary](#)

Being able to add more movement to my lessons. I created this game called Musical Math because my boys were nonresponsive to pencil paper activities. They responded very well and ask constantly if they can play.

I have to be more explicit and direct when giving instructions and when I give a directive it must be understood that it is not a request. I want it done now!
[May, Beech Hill Elementary](#)

Being able to stay on task vs. dealing with conduct issues.

Seeing more teamwork and positive peer pressure develop amongst the students.
[Robert, Carvers Bay High](#)

The realization of the different atmosphere a class of guys have compared to a mixed class.
[Sammie, Long Middle](#)

Classroom discussions where students sit in a circle and share. I have a class of girls so this really helps diffuse cliqueness.
[Shaylah, Killian Elementary](#)

At recess my girls "tutor and play" ... for example, a peer was having trouble with learning her 7 and 8 times table was pulled into jump rope multiplication by a young lady who mastered the facts. The expert called out three facts while the other yelled out the answer. This is an activity the girls created and do quite often. It was surprising because it shows they care about the success of their sister.
[Mykeida, Guinyard Elementary](#)

The relationships that I am able to build with my young ladies

That I actually enjoy just being girls.
[Charlynnira, Bates Middle](#)

Watching boys and girls who would probably be more reticent in a coed setting open up in single gender.
[Lisa, Oakbrook Middle](#)

Differentiating instruction is a lot easier and there is less boy/girl bickering.
[Holly, Manning Primary](#)

Watching the girls not feel inferior to the boys.
[Andrea, Seneca Middle](#)

Less drama between boys/girls classes.

Can actually get through teaching a class.
[Josie, Charlestowne Academy](#)

Less distractions and interruptions.

Getting more accomplished academically.
[Joyce, South Kilbourne Elementary](#)

Teachers who thought they wouldn't enjoy single-gender class do enjoy it.
[Courtney, Blacksburg Middle](#)

During SSR ... we got "boy" books and they didn't want to stop reading them. They wanted to share the books with each other.

How well they work with each other.
[Patty, Riverside Middle](#)

Boys are more conscientious than I thought about grades. There is a group that compare scores on assessments. I thought only girls were that grade conscientious. When they become too competitive, I usually have to intervene.

[Meachia, Ridgeland Junior High](#)

They are able to ask questions without being embarrassed. At the beginning of the school year I told them there were no stupid questions. There, they always remind each other of that when it's time to ask questions.

[Aba, South Kilbourne](#)

The boys are really able to open up because they aren't worried about what the girls are thinking.

The kids really don't miss having members of the opposite gender in their classes.

[Jennifer, Oakbrook Middle](#)

Thus far, our mornings are great, with no management issues. Students are on task displaying the idea of "I am my brother's keeper." Seeing my class on task encourages my belief in their ability to be the best they can be.

One experience as actually seeing the boys catch on to a concept dealing with chemical changes just as fast as the girls while performing a lab.

[Tyrone, Carvers Bay High](#)

More Comments from Teachers!

Watching my boys succeed in action verb review game ... it finally clicked!

[Jennifer, Joseph Keels Elementary](#)

I have found my class (boys) full of excitement. They are eager to learn and explore. Everyday is a new day – a new challenge.

[Margaret, St. Helena Early Learning Center](#)

That I enjoy teaching all boys!

[Kim, Manning Primary](#)

Being able to stay on task vs. dealing with conduct issues.

My 8th grade boys interested in a 3rd grade picture book! They acted like kindergarteners.

[Dewayne, Kingstree Junior High](#)

Conversation – boys, especially, are more willing to open up.

[Austin, Bates Middle](#)

My boys love to debate using the "timer" to signal that they have finished talking. Very respectful!

[Becky, Hand Middle](#)

My young gentlemen are so eager to learn! They come to class prepared and ready for lessons.

The boys are so affectionate.

[Alexis, Killian Elementary](#)

REMEMBER

**S.C. School Counselor Association
October 28–30, 2008 in Charleston**

Dr. Leonard Sax (author of Why Gender Matters and Boys Adrift) will present a keynote address and pre-conference on Sunday, October 28.

For more information:

www.scschoolcounselor.org

Single-Gender Lesson Plan and Strategy Template

Complete a Single-Gender Lesson Plan Template and email it to David Chadwell (dchadwel@ed.sc.gov). Lessons need to be complete and clear. Submitted lessons will be considered for acceptance based upon clarity, probable use by other teachers, and application of gender differences. Teachers agree that submitted lessons will be distributed to other educators and made available in print and virtual formats. Lessons may be edited for clarity, format, and space.

Lesson Title: *What is the title for this lesson?*

Recommended Gender(s): *What gender(s) would benefit from this lesson?*

Recommended Grade Level(s): *What is the grade level(s) for this lesson?*

Recommended Subject Area(s): *What is the content area(s) for this lesson?*

Type of Strategy (i.e. Direct Instruction, Group Work, Review, Partner Work, Independent Work, Project): *What kind of strategies are included in this lesson?*

Overview/Summary of Lesson: *What should teachers expect to see happen?*

Materials: *What do teachers need to have to make this lesson successful?*

Step-by-Step Procedure: *What do teachers and/or students need to do?*

Rationale for Use within a Single-Gender Class: *Why is this a good lesson for a single-gender classroom? How does it meet the needs of boys and/or girls?*

Resources for Educators of Single-Gender Classes

Links

SCDE Website:

www.ed.sc.gov/agency/divisions/dcs/Singlegender.html

NASSPE: www.singlesexschools.org

Abigail James:

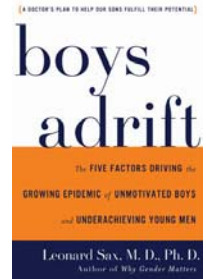
www.rockhouseassociates.org/

JoAnn Deak: www.deakgroup.com/

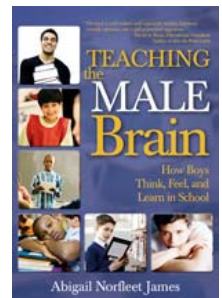
Guys Read: www.guysread.com

Previously Highlighted Books

Boys Adrift by Leonard Sax
Research-based analysis of five factors that affect boys' motivation and achievement



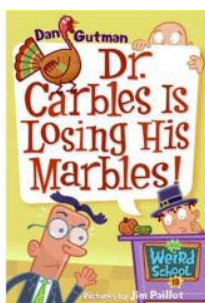
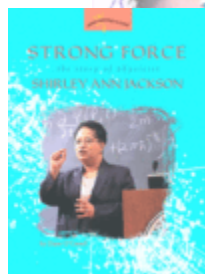
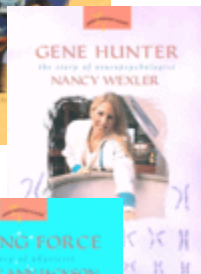
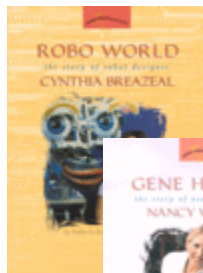
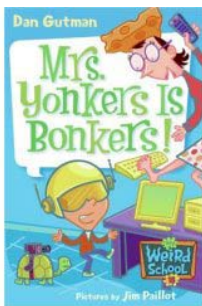
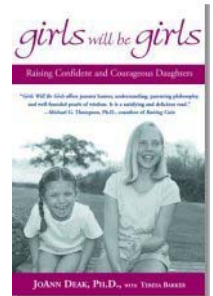
Teaching the Male Brain by Abigail James
Brain-based differences and strategies for boys by a teacher of boys



Dan Gutman has a series titled The Weird School. These easy to read books will appeal to your boys. Told from the perspective of AJ, a boy who tends to discover many crazy adventures in school. - *From my son Elliot, age 6*

Girls Will Be Girls by JoAnn Deak

Understanding of girls and their needs as well as their opportunities and better ways to reach them



The Women's Adventures in Science series (www.iwaswondering.org) is being used to engage adolescent girls in the scientific process. The biographies highlight the lives and careers of modern women who have overcome obstacles to pursue their passion for discovery. Hopefully students will be inspired by these stories as they gain insight into the process of scientific research. Because of these stories, the students will be more prepared to design and conduct their own science fair projects. Ideally, these books will also encourage girls to pursue careers in science and engineering.— *Marriah Schwallier - Degenhardt, Dent Middle School*